



Gail Farber
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2008

General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

4555 West Avenue G

Lancaster, CA 93536-8401

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Secretary George G. Butts
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice Chair Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. Patrick M. Di Leva, Airport Project Coordinator, Aviation Division

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUEST

Mr. George P. Prewitt – General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Association

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jerome Alexander called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

1. October 29, 2008 Minutes

Commissioner Lord made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Chase. The minutes were approved and adopted as written.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle reported Eclipse Aviation Corporation recently filed for bankruptcy protection as a result of a decline in revenues. He also stated fuel prices have declined at Whiteman and Brackett Field Airports since older fuel was purchased. American Airports Corporation (AAC) has received a large reduction in cost, which will allow all the County airports to eventually bring their fuel costs down.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport:

Mr. Morgan said Whiteman Airport is now selling fuel at \$3.99 per gallon. The airport was affected by the second round of recent local fires, and a temporary flight restriction was enforced. Whiteman Airport supported the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection contracted personnel, as they set up a base of operation. Airport operations were closed for one week, and he was working with various agencies to move the temporary flight restriction north of Whiteman Airport.

The new hangar development for Vista Aviation is near completion, and in the next month, they will be relocating to their new facility. The six new aircraft hangars located by the Airpark Way and Orbital Way intersection are near completion, and tenants will occupy the space by late January. Sun Quest Aviation Flight School is out of business, and the owner is selling all assets. The Whiteman Airport Association had their annual election on November 20, 2008. On December 11, 2008, the airport association will host its holiday party at Rocky's Restaurant. Mr. Morgan stated the tenant stakeholder's meeting will be held on December 9, 2008.

Mr. Morgan said the County's Traffic and Lighting Division is conducting a traffic study on Airpark Way to install speed bumps.

Mr. Morgan mentioned several recent aircraft incidents at Whiteman Airport. A small airplane landed with its landing gear retracted. On November 14, 2008, a small tail-dragger aircraft landed in high winds and struck some runway lights, and they have been repaired. On November 20, 2008, a light sport aircraft landed on San Fernando Boulevard as the engine failed just before landing at Whiteman Airport.

Mr. Morgan said all the hangars are occupied, and nine tiedown spaces are available.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked Mr. Morgan to clarify the amount of tiedown spaces that will be developed once Vista Aviation relocates to its new facilities. Mr. Morgan answered there will be 70 new tie spaces. Chair Jerome Alexander asked Mr. Richard Smith when the new tie-downs will be developed. Mr. Smith said that construction is anticipated for the summer of 2009.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport:

Mr. Fox-Tuck stated the south entrance is having some technical difficulties. On November 18, 2008, suspicious activity was observed when a mechanic returned to the airport and he noticed a man inside an aircraft he was working on. As the mechanic approached the aircraft, the individual entered his vehicle and left the airport. La Verne Police Department was informed about the incident.

Mr. Fox-Tuck said airport staff removed a large bee's nest from the exterior walls of the terminal building. Some of the roof overhangs were removed in order to address the bee issues, and the roof material will be replaced.

Mr. Fox-Tuck said on November 24, 2008, a Grumman Tiger aircraft, which had departed from Calexico Airport, was escorted back to Brackett Field Airport.

Mr. Fox-Tuck said Ballard Aviation Flight School is successful, and an increase of the airport's flight operations can be attributed to this flight school. In February 2009, *La Verne Magazine* will print an article about John's Pilot Shop and the history of Brackett Field Airport. *The Daily Bulletin* also printed an article about *The Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots* meeting at the airport.

Brackett Field Airport participated in the Southern California Shakeout drill. It gave the airport an excellent opportunity to simulate an emergency by having both runways showing damage and allowing the airport to only have helicopter operations.

Mr. Fox-Tuck stated that recent improvements to the pilot's lounge are complete. The self-service fuel island dispensers have been painted, and signs around the airport were replaced. A hydro-cleaning of the sewer piping from the terminal building was completed, and a routine service schedule will be in place. The flag pole cables were replaced, and the used oil stations were refurbished.

The stakeholder's meeting at Brackett Field Airport will be held on December 1, 2008, and the Brackett Field Airport Association holiday party will be held on December 4, 2008.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport:

Mr. Marino stated the airport staff replaced the ceiling tiles and light fixtures at the north pilot's lounge. Last month, airport staff conducted tree trimming along the north perimeter wall. The County agreed to fund the special projects, which were painting three hangars and landscaping the east and west ends of the airport.

Compton/Woodley Airport stakeholder's meeting was held on November 18, 2008. On December 10, 2008, the FAA will be conducting a Certified Flight Instructor safety seminar at the airport.

The Compton/Woodley Airport Association holiday party will be held on December 18, 2008, and there will be an opportunity for the public to donate unwrapped items to the Toys-for-Tots Foundation.

Commissioner Lord thanked Mr. Marino and Mr. Fox-Tuck for volunteering their time for the Wings Over Long Beach Foundation career fair event.

Mr. Wardle commented that the stakeholder's meeting at Compton/Woodley Airport was pleasant, and that a particular tenant noted Compton/Woodley Airport is receiving more attention on new improvements and projects.

Mr. Rafael Herrera, reported on events at El Monte Airport:

The County has completed new flooring as well as rain gutters on the east and west sides of the terminal building. New landscaping was installed in front of Universal Air Academy. Mr. Herrera said airport staff is preparing to paint the fuel island and pumps. Mr. Herrera will have a meeting on December 16, 2008, with the FAA to discuss the upcoming Runway Safety Action Plan project at El Monte Airport.

The El Monte Airport stakeholder's meeting was held on November 13, 2008, and it was a well-attended meeting from the tenants and fixed-base operators. Construction of the new executive hangars continues, and concrete has been installed for the hangar doors.

Commissioner Butts asked Mr. Herrera when the holiday party at El Monte Airport will occur. Mr. Herrera said no date is confirmed, but the pilot association is working on the date.

Mr. Scott Wardle commented on the stakeholder's meeting at El Monte Airport stating that the tenants are pleased with the airport's operations. The only concerns are the fuel prices and more frequent use of the power sweeper. Chair Jerome Alexander asked Mr. Wardle if there have been other concerns about the power sweeper. Mr. Wardle answered that tenants feel if the power sweeper is at the airport, it should be in use at all times of the day. Mr. Wardle said a rotation schedule has been set up for the power sweeper to move to each airport as well as a sweeping schedule produced specifically to El Monte Airport.

Mr. Steve Irving, reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield:

Mr. Irving stated that a letter was addressed to the FAA requesting changes to the instrument flight approach. Currently, the instrument approach is to Runway 6. The FAA has agreed to this request, and the revision of the instrument approach will be changed to Runway 24 on December 17, 2008.

Mr. Irving said the new County monument entrance sign is complete, and lighting will be installed at a future date. Phase III of the County's pavement rehabilitation project is complete. After the recent rain, some ponding was discovered. The contractor returned to the airport and fixed the problem by grinding out asphalt sections to make the slope sufficient for proper drainage.

Chair Jerome Alexander asked if there was a stakeholder's meeting at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. Mr. Wardle said the only concern from the stakeholder's meeting was hangar rental fees and fuel prices. Mr. Wardle said the restaurant owner at the airport is still considering converting the unused FAA building to a restaurant.

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Richard Smith introduced Mr. Bill Bird to the Commissioners as the new Assistant Division Chief for the Aviation Division.

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for July through October and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with an update of Minimum Standards project. The Department of Public Works received four proposals, and the top-ranked proposer was the same firm from the first round of bids. He explained that negotiations failed for the second time, and the second proposer is now being considered. Negotiations with the second-ranked proposer were successful, and a contract is being prepared. Chair Jerome Alexander asked Mr. Smith if there is going to be tenant or community input to the Minimum Standards. Mr. Smith said yes and stated that there will be a kick off meeting, but no schedule is confirmed since a contract is not in place. Mr. Smith clarified that Minimum Standards is not for the general hangar tenants; it is primarily for commercial operators. Commissioner Lord asked Mr. Smith if the consultant would utilize information that was gathered by the Minimum Standards Committee. Mr. Smith said the new firm will consider all available information.

Mr. Smith reported on the recent Federal Governments Economic Stimulus Plan and stated that the County's Chief Executive Office (CEO) wants a plan of projects that could be started within six to nine months. Eligible projects include infrastructure and energy efficiency projects. Projects to be included for airports are: A "green" solar power-generating project at General Wm. J.

Fox Airfield and pavement rehabilitation project for Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Smith reported on a local Lancaster resident who is interested in installing a dragstrip at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. There have been several meetings with local officials and the FAA, and the City of Lancaster decided this would not meet its Light Industrial zoning requirements.

Mr. Smith also stated it would not be feasible with the airport's Land Use Compatibility Plan.

Mr. Smith provided an update of the County's involvement with the City of Palmdale's efforts to provide passenger service to Palmdale Airport.

Mr. Smith provided an update on capital projects and reported that the Board of Supervisors issued a press release for the four Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) projects.

Mr. Smith said that at Brackett Field Airport the design of the Runway Safety Action Plan Project is ongoing, and the consultant's geotechnical engineers will be at the airport soon to take boring samples.

The Compton/Woodley Airport pavement rehabilitation design is ongoing, and the Soil Remediation project will be completed in one to two years.

The County is waiting for comments from the FAA on the Taxiway Development project at El Monte Airport, which is anticipated to begin this summer.

Mr. Smith reported on the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update Project, and Chapter 4 of the plan is now on the Aviation Commission website. Chapter 4 discusses the forecast and trends of the past 10 years by plotting the annual operations for General Aviation airports. The County will be accepting comments throughout this process.

4. General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Additional Items

No additional items for General Wm. J. Fox Airfield.

5. 2009 Election of Commission Officers

Chair Jerome Alexander made the nominations for the 2009 Officers of the Commission as follows: Penelope Cornwall, Chairman; George G. Butts, Vice Chairman; and Angelo R. Cardono, Secretary.

On motion by Chair Jerome Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Butts, the nominations were unanimously approved.

6. Approval of the 2009 Los Angeles County Aviation Commission Calendar

On motion by Commissioner Lord, seconded by Commissioner Butts, the 2009 Los Angeles County Aviation Commission Calendar was unanimously approved.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. George Prewitt commented how gratified the tenants of General Wm. J. Fox Airfield are to have a finished monument entrance sign. Mr. Prewitt reported the pilot association holiday party will be on December 13, 2008. He is pleased to know the County will be beautifying the observation area of the airport. Mr. Prewitt said that at the stakeholder's meeting, the tenants would like shades on the terminal building windows to eliminate glare during presentations. Mr. Prewitt expressed his concerns on the open vacancies in the Antelope Valley for Commissioners. Mr. Smith acknowledged Mr. Prewitt's comment by stating the 5th District has been reviewing applications for new Commissioners.

Commissioner Lord stated that the career fair event Wings Over Long Beach Foundation was successful, and there were about 10,000 to 11,000 attendees. Commissioner Lord said he looks forward on having this event next year.

D. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVIATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON:

**Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 10 a.m.
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5837
(909) 593-1395**

Chair Jerome Alexander adjourned the meeting at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary George G. Butts
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

PMD:hz

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